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Milton J. Lindner (1908-1973)

Gordon Gunter

Gulf Coast Research Laboratory

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MILTON J. LINDNER

1908–1973

When he retired from the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service in 1970, the following information about Mr. Lindner was distributed by his colleagues in the Service. It is presented here in toto. A four and one-half page list of his publications followed.

Lindner, Milton J(erome), fishery biologist; born, Jerome, Arizona, September 9, 1908; son of Edward A. and Mollie A. (McCale) Lindner; B.A., Fresno State College, 1930; student Stanford; married Carmen C. Rouede, December 13, 1932; children—Milton Jerome, Jr., Colette R. Weber. Marine Biologist California Fish and Game Commission, 1928–30; In Charge of Shrimp Investigations U.S. Bureau of Fisheries and Fish and Wildlife Service, 1931–43; Chief U.S. Fishery Mission to Mexico, 1941–55; Commodity-Industry Analyst Fish and Wildlife Service, 1955–56; Regional Fisheries Officer Latin America, Department of State, 1956–62; Laboratory Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Biological Laboratory, Galveston, Texas, 1963–70. Advisor: U.S. Delegations Conv. Establishment International Commissions Scientific Investigation of Tuna, Mexico, 1948; Latin American Fisheries Council, Lima, Peru, 1951; UN International Technical Conference Conservation Living Resources Sea, Rome, 1955; Santiago Negotiation on Fishery Conservation Problems, 1955; Inter-American Specialized Conference Conservation Natural Resources, Continental Shelf and Marine Waters, Ciudad Trujillo, 1956; 5th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America, San Jose, Costa Rica, 1958; Concurrent OAS and FAO Inter-American Conferences on Agriculture, Mexico, D. F., Mexico; United States-Honduras Fishery Negotiations, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, 1967; United States-Mexico Fishery Conferences, Washington, D.C. and Mexico, D.F., 1967. Lecturer, in Spanish, for United Nations, FAO Second Latin American Center for Fishery Talent, Mexico, 1954; Invited Lecturer, Venezuelan Association for the Advancement of Science, XVI Session, Caracas, Venezuela, 1966; Convener, Resource Appraisal Section, World Scientific Conference on the Biology and Culture of Shrimps and Prawns, United Nations, FAO, Mexico, D.F., Mexico, June 12–21, 1967; Review Lecturer, on Shrimp Resources of the Caribbean Sea and Adjacent Regions, Symposium on Investigations and Resources of the Caribbean Sea and Adjacent Regions, UNESCO-WMO, Willemstad, Curaçao, Netherland Antilles, November 18–26, 1968. Member: A.A.A.S., American Fisheries Society, American Institute of Biological Sciences, American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, Ecological Society of America, World Mariculture Society. Honors: Salutatorian, High School Class, 1925; Salutatorian, College Class, 1930; Especially Meritorious Promotion, 1945; Received the award of Naval Merit from the Government of Mexico, 1945; Honorary Member, Sailfish and Tarpon Club of Mexico, since 1947; Honorary Member, Venezuelan Association for the Advancement of Science, 1966; Superior Performance Award, 1968; U.S. Department of the



Milton J. Lindner

Interior Meritorious Service Award, 1970. Home: 4923 Crockett Boulevard, Galveston, Texas 77550.

On March 31, 1970, Mr. Lindner retired after 40 years of Federal service; the last 7 years were spent as Director of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Biological Laboratory, Galveston, Texas.

This is a good official summary of the man's accomplishments and it covers nearly all matters of importance. The only thing I know that was left out was the fact that he was listed in *Who's Who in America*. However, such things are only sketches of bare bones so to speak. There is more to be said in the proper appraisal of a man's life.

To begin at the beginning, there was the first "Fishery School" in North America which developed from the small but powerful coterie of ichthyologists that David Starr Jordan gathered around him at Stanford. Frank W. Weymouth, who was a medical physiologist also, was a powerful member of this group and Lindner took courses with him. He thus became a fishery biologist. When Weymouth was sent to New Orleans by the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries charged with setting up a study program on shrimp in 1931, he brought Lindner with him. W. W. Anderson

was already at work in Georgia and Lindner employed me later that year. The Shrimp Investigations was a joint program with the states from North Carolina to Texas. Due to the terminal illness of his wife, Weymouth was only in and out and finally left at the end of two years.

Thus the responsibility of the Shrimp Investigations was left to Lindner. He had a small budget by today's standards but he set to with a will and carried on a successful program until 1943 when he went to Mexico. He published 20 papers on the Gulf and South Atlantic states shrimp during his life and two are classics—Weymouth, Lindner and Anderson (1933), and Lindner and Anderson (1954).

But his importance to this era and place was a great deal more than mere contributions to shrimp biology and to the shrimp industry. Essentially he was the first man with the modern knowledge and outlook of fishery biology to come to the Gulf Coast and stay. He was one of those fortunate individuals who was intensely interested in what he was doing and he spread the story of fishery biology and marine science far and wide. He held innumerable conferences with state officials, legislative committees and individuals, wrote hundreds of letters and gave talks to various public groups and held many newspaper interviews. This was not a planned campaign on his part, but it was carried out as part of the work he had to do and in fulfillment of his own interests. Only in looking back can we see the powerful influence he had. It may well be the most important contribution he made to society. In Mexico and South America from 1943 to 1962 he carried on essentially the same kind of work.

In the early days Lindner and Weymouth more or less introduced W. W. Anderson, Kenneth Mosher and me to fishery theory. Later Albert Collier came under his influence and we all have carried the peculiar ecological slant which the science imparts.

From 1963 to 1970 Mr. Lindner directed the federal fishery laboratory at Galveston. In some quarters he was reputed to be too soft to apply the crunch to people when necessary. But I remember well that he applied the same leniency to a very callow, very shy and introspective youth from Louisiana and Texas forty-five years ago and in looking back on my career I have concluded that Lindner was right.

Lindner's integrity was absolute and his enthusiasm was contagious. He impressed his listeners and contributed greatly to the growth of marine biology in the Gulf of Mexico. He was one of the "salt of the Earth" types who stave off the chaos and disorganization which continually erode society and its foundations. Scientists on the Gulf Coast are particularly indebted to him.

He died of circulatory troubles in Galveston on 20 September 1973 and his ashes were buried in New Orleans.

Gordon Gunter
Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
Ocean Springs, Mississippi